



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/22/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2612, SD2 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai. Requires the Department of Education to submit an interim report and a final report to the Legislature on the feasibility of statewide implementation. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2612, SD2.

The Department will need to procure utensils for the duration of the pilot project to support approximately 1,000 students enrolled in Department schools on Moloka'i to explore the use of reusable utensils in and by school cafeterias for student meals.

The Department has confirmed with the Department of Health (DOH) that multi-use (reusable) utensils may be used and that they must be treated as any other food contact surface which must be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to use. The Department has also confirmed with the DOH that the feasible cleaning methods include the cafeteria's current manual ware-washing method, which uses the three-compartment sink for proper washing, rinsing, and sanitizing by the School Food Services Branch cafeteria staff. Further, the Department will continue to explore the feasibility of statewide implementation of a reusable utensil program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments supporting the intent of this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2612, S.D. 2

**March 22, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2612, S.D. 2: 1) establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education (DOE) schools on Moloka'i that shall start on August 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2023; 2) requires DOE to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of statewide implementation; and 3) appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 23 for the purposes of this measure.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:59:08 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzanne Frazer	B.E.A.C.H.	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.) in support of SB2612 SD2. Every single school throughout Hawaii should be using reusable utensils. This is the most cost-effective, efficient way to provide utensils and not produce unnecessary waste. Dishwashing machines can be purchased to ensure that the utensils are sterilized properly. As long as pods are not put in the dishwasher, then no plastic pollution in the environment is being created.

I am concerned that this is only a "pilot" project for 11 months. Once the utensils and dishwashing machines are purchased there shouldn't be any need for further funding so why is this only an 11 month pilot project? What will happen to the equipment and utensils after that? It should be a permanent change to the way schools operate. And use of reusable utensils needs to be implemented and required in every school throughout Hawaii.

This is such an easy step towards plastic reduction. It's sad that schools changed from metal to plastic in the first place - so wasteful in both cost and to the environment. As one testifier wrote \$500,000 has been wasted on disposable plastic at their charter school on Molokai over the last 20 years and a huge amount of plastic waste has been added to the landfill as a result.

I would like to see this bill amended to go beyond a pilot project to a permanent change to all schools throughout Hawaii - a mandate to stop wasting tax payer money on disposable, unnecessary plastic in schools and to put in place reusable utensils, plates and cups.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Frazer.  
B.E.A.C.H. Co-Founder.

**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:30:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydia Trinidad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -- I am Lydia Trinidad, Principal of Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School on Molokai. For more than 20 years the Kualapuu School cafeteria has been using plastic utensils and paper plates to serve breakfasts and lunches at school. Schools need to become more sustainable by not purchasing supplies that will end up in the landfill after one use.

The school continues to use paper plates and plastic forks to serve over 800 meals daily. This is unsustainable for our land and landfill. It is estimated that with 800 paper plates, and 800 forks daily, and 180 school days, about 288,000 paper plates and plastic utensils yearly are added to our limited Molokai landfill. Over 3 years, that adds up to 864,000 pieces of plates and plastic being added to the landfill.

**The alternative is to eliminate single use plates, utensils, and cups when we serve school meal to our students. However, we will need to upgrade and replace our kitchen equipment so we can become a sustainable school. We have priced our upgrade/refurburshing at \$500,000. However over the past 20 years, we have spent about \$500,000 in paper plates, single use plastic utentils, and plastic cups -- all of this ended up in the landfill.**

Over the long term, by refurburshing our equipment and eliminating single use paper plates, plastic utensils, and plastic cups will not only save costs, but more importantly save our landfill and environment.

In addition, Kualapuu is primed to pilot this project for the DOE as we have the already cost estimates for the replacement of our equipment.

Thank you for your continued support of this measure.

**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:51:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Nip	Kualapuu School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of SB2612 SD2

**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:02:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Davelyn Lokelani Han	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our island (Moloka'i) is trying its best to mālama our natural resources. This pilot project would be an opportunity to see if reusable utensils are a viable choice over one use utensils. The data gathered from this pilot project can help to guide practices throughout the state in the future.

Please vote yes on SB 2612 SD2



**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:46:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Omalsa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2612 for our future generations.

**SB-2612-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:53:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of a DOE student, it is time to stop the paper/plastic waste used to feed our keikis at schools on the island of Molokai. We instill the importance of the aina to our keiki (reduce, reuse, recycle, don't litter) and yet in the the Molokai DOE schools their breakfast and lunch meals are served on paper plates and plastic utensils. Please move forward SB2612. Mahalo!